

REMARKS

Claims 14 and 16-28 are pending in the present application after cancellation of claim 15. Claims 14 and 16 have been amended.

Applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority and the acknowledgment that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

In response to the Examiner's indication that claims 15-27 contain allowable subject matter, Applicants have amended claim 14 to incorporate the features of now-canceled claim 15 (essentially rewriting claim 15 in independent form), as well as amending claim 16 in independent form to include the features of original claim 14. Remaining claims 17-28 ultimately depend on claim 14. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 14 and 16-28 are in allowable condition.

In response to the Examiner's indication that the references cited in the IDS of January 4, 2006 have not been considered because copies of the cited foreign documents were not provided, Applicants note that the cited references were originally cited in the International Search Report of the PCT application corresponding to the present U.S. application, and the cited references should have been provided by the International Searching Authority. If the cited references have not been provided by the International Searching Authority, Applicants will submit copies of the cited references.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 14 and 16-28 are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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